SUBJECT: Vehicles: Positive Means of Support for Vehicles with Dump Bodies

AFFECTED CODES/DIRECTIVES: Division 2/N, OAR 437-002-2225(8)(c), Vehicles for Highway and Road Operation Characteristics and Maintenance
Division 3/O, OAR 437-003-3225(8)(c), Vehicles for Highway and Road Operation Characteristics and Maintenance
Division 4/U, OAR 437-004-3410(5)(e), Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Vehicles

PURPOSE: To provide instructions for the enforcement of the affected codes and determining the severity of the violation.

BACKGROUND: Fatalities have occurred with raised dump bodies when the hoist, dump, or drive mechanism of a truck malfunctioned or was inadvertently activated with the dump body in a raised or semi-raised position and the victim was performing an inspection, test, maintenance, or repair while leaning over the truck frame. In some cases, the victim made contact with the hoist angle limit cable and the dump body fell, crushing them.

In all cases, the dump body was not blocked or supported to prevent it from falling. No means of support was provided, or if it was provided, it was not in use since the permanently attached brace that was mounted on the truck frame could not be used unless the dump body was fully raised.

ACTION: When vehicles with dump bodies do not have a permanent and positive means of support as required by the applicable rules, the following instructions must apply:

A. If all the following criteria are met and are documented in the compliance officer’s report, a de minimis condition will be assessed, with no penalty proposed.

1. The employer has a safety and training program that requires the dump body to be effectively braced, supported or otherwise secured from falling whenever it is in the raised position for inspection, testing, maintenance, or repair.
2. All affected employees have received the training.
3. The safety program is enforced.
4. It is confirmed through employee interviews that safe procedures have been established and are adhered to that also prevent employee exposure to a raised and unsupported dump body at remote locations. These procedures could include carrying an appropriate brace on the vehicle or communications with other persons who would bring appropriate safeguards to the vehicle.

B. If the criteria in (A)(1) through (4) are not met, and it can be determined that there is or could be employee exposure to a raised and unsupported dump body, then it must be cited and evaluated as a serious violation with appropriate penalties.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.